

Victims of Exploitation & Trafficking Assistance Program

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The VETA program is interested in working with you to develop new ways to educate the public about human trafficking. If you are a social service provider, law enforcement official, attorney, medical or mental health professional, or community or religious leader, you may be the first point of contact for the trafficked victim. VETA Program staff can help you learn how to identify and assist victims.

Victims of human trafficking need your help. To find out how you can help or to report a potential trafficking case, please contact the local BPSOS office nearest you and ask to speak with the VETA staff person, or e-mail veta@bpsos.org.

Virginia

6066 Leesburg Pike
Suite 100
Falls Church, VA 22041
Tel: (703) 538-2190

Maryland

7411 Riggs Rd.
Suite 328
Adelphi, MD 20783
Tel: (301) 439-0505

Georgia

3335 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd.
Chamblee, GA 30341
Tel: (770) 458-6700

Texas

11205 Bellaire Blvd.
Suite #B22
Houston, TX 77072
Tel: (281) 530-6888

California

9550 Bolsa Ave.
Suite 201
Westminster, CA 92683
Tel: (714) 775-2214

Pennsylvania

1029 South 3rd St.
Philadelphia, PA 19147
Tel: (215) 334-1500

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BPSOS

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. Human trafficking is a global epidemic. Victims are often lured or abducted by traffickers posing as job recruiters, smugglers or marriage brokers. Other times, the trafficker may be a relative, close friend or intended spouse. When the victims arrive in the new country, their passports and documents are confiscated and the victims are forced to work under threat of deportation, beatings, rape, and/or starvation. In the past, victims have been found working as commercial sex workers, in sweatshops, as domestic servants, in agriculture, and in the restaurant and tourism businesses. Because the victims are physically, linguistically, and culturally isolated from others, they are not able to escape and are difficult to identify.

Human trafficking is also a local problem. US citizens are susceptible to human trafficking within our nation's borders. Like international human trafficking victims, those preyed upon by the traffickers are the marginalized and therefore, the vulnerable members of society. Children from broken homes, individuals with addictions or dependencies, street children, and others are often lured by traffickers with promises of a good job. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

ADVOCACY & SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Victims of Exploitation and Trafficking Assistance (VETA) Program assists individuals who have been trafficked in a culturally competent manner, using a client-centered approach. To accomplish this goal, the VETA program has developed a four pronged approach:

- 1) Provide direct legal assistance with immigration relief to victims of human trafficking.
- 2) Provide case management, translation and interpretation, and cultural support to victims of human trafficking.
- 3) Conduct community education and outreach in the Vietnamese community to promote awareness of human trafficking.
- 4) Build capacity by collaborating with other service providers to form an assistance network for human trafficking victims.

HISTORY OF VETA

In September 2001, the VETA program was officially launched to help over 200 Vietnamese and Chinese workers who were forced to work in a sweatshop on the island of American Samoa. The workers were paid close to nothing, fed inadequately and made to work in a factory in which temperatures rose higher than 104 degrees. VETA was launched to help these individuals come to the United States and receive legal and social support.

